

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A support system for supporting at least one supported item, comprising:
 - a plurality of ~~standardized, like~~ members, each having a first length and plurality of connection receivers spaced from one another in a direction along said first length, connected to one another so as to form a frame generally defining a plane, each of said plurality of standardized members being the same as all others of said plurality of standardized members, except only that said first length of each of said plurality of standardized members need not be the same as said first length of each other of said plurality of standardized members;
 - a plurality of first connectors engaging corresponding ones of said plurality of connection receivers so as to secure said plurality of ~~standardized, like~~ members to one another to form said frame;
 - at least one support, for supporting the at least one supported item, extending in a direction away from said plane of said frame; and
 - at least one second connector engaging at least one of said plurality of connection receivers and said at least one support to secure said at least one support to said frame.
2. **(Currently amended)** A support system according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of ~~standardized, like~~ members includes a first elongate rail and a second elongate rail in parallel spaced relation to one another.
3. **(Withdrawn)** A support system according to claim 2, wherein each of said first and second elongate rails includes a plurality of grooves confronting like grooves on the other of said first and second elongate rails.
4. **(Withdrawn)** A support system according to claim 2, wherein said connection receivers includes corresponding apertures in said first and second rails.

P277-12/00

Page 2 of 17

Law Offices of
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC
199 Main Street
P.O. Box 190
Burlington, VT 05402-0190
(802) 863-2375

5. **(Withdrawn)** A support system according to claim 2, wherein at least some of said plurality of first connectors each include a movable connector having first and second channels spaced from one another, each engaging a corresponding one of said first and second elongate rails.
6. **(Original)** A support according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of supports for supporting said at least one supported item, each of said supports secured to said frame by at least one corresponding second connector.
7. **(Original)** A support according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of first connectors and said second connector includes a threaded rod.
8. **(Currently amended)** A support according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of standardized, ~~like~~ members is made of a cellulose pressboard.
9. **(Currently amended)** A support system according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of standardized, ~~like~~ members has a tubular cross-sectional shape.
10. **(Currently amended)** A support system according to claim 9, wherein each of said plurality of standardized, ~~like~~ members is made by folding a sheet containing a plurality of grooves extending along said first length at each of said plurality of grooves.
11. **(Withdrawn)** A support system according to claim 1, wherein said first elongate frame member comprises at least two interlocking members interlocked with one another along their said first lengths.
12. **(Original)** A support system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one support comprises a strap having a receiving portion and a pair of legs extending away from said receiving portion.
13. **(Withdrawn)** A support system according to claim 12, wherein further comprises at least one spacing member located adjacent said pair of legs.

P277-12/00

Page 3 of 17

Law Offices of
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC
199 Main Street
P.O. Box 190
Burlington, VT 05402-0190
(802) 863-2375

14. **(Withdrawn)** A support system according to claim 13, further comprising a pair of spacing members and wherein said pair or legs is sandwiched between said pair of spacing members.
15. **(Withdrawn)** A support system according to claim 12, wherein said at least one support further comprises a spacing member positioned between said legs.
16. **(Original)** A support system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one supported item is an elongate item having a second length and said support system comprises a plurality of supports for supporting the at least one supported item at a plurality of locations along its length.
17. **(Original)** A support system according to claim 16, wherein the at least one supported item is an electrical conductor.
18. **(Original)** A support system according to claim 15, wherein the at least one supported item is a fluid conductor.
19. **(Withdrawn)** A modular system, comprising:
a first elongate rail that includes a first length and a first face having a first plurality of grooves spaced from one another along said first length;
a second elongate rail that includes a second length and a second face confronting in spaced relation said first face of said first elongate rail and having a second plurality of grooves in registration with said first plurality of grooves in said first elongate rail;
a plurality of spacers located between said first elongate rail and said second elongate rail;
and
a plurality of connection members securing said first elongate rail, said second elongate rail, and said plurality of spacers in substantially fixed relationship with one another.
20. **(Withdrawn)** A modular system according to claim 19, wherein at least one of said plurality of spacers is a support.

P277-12/00

Page 4 of 17

Law Offices of
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC
199 Main Street
P.O. Box 190
Burlington, VT 05402-0190
(802) 863-2375

21. **(Withdrawn)** A modular system according to claim 19, wherein at least one of said plurality of spacers is a movable connector having first and second channels each engaging a corresponding one of said first and second elongate rails.
22. **(Withdrawn)** A modular system according to claim 21, wherein said movable connector snugly engages one of said first plurality of grooves and one of said second plurality of notches.
23. **(Withdrawn)** A modular system according to claim 19, wherein each of said first and second elongate rails includes an aperture at each of said first and second pluralities of notches.
24. **(Withdrawn)** A modular system according to claim 23, wherein each of said plurality of connection members includes an elongate connecting member extending through one of said apertures in said first elongate rail and a corresponding one of said apertures in said second elongate rail.
25. **(Withdrawn)** A modular system according to claim 24, wherein each of said elongate connecting members is a threaded rod.
26. **(Withdrawn)** A modular system according to claim 19, wherein at least one of said plurality of spacers snugly engages one of said first plurality of grooves and one of said second plurality of grooves.
27. **(Original)** A system, comprising:
a support system, comprising:
a plurality of elongate frame members, each having a longitudinal axis, arranged in a grid-like frame defining a plane such that each of said plurality of elongate frame members laps at least two other of said plurality of elongate frame members in a direction non-

- parallel with respect to the longitudinal axis of said at least one other of said plurality of elongate frame members to form a plurality of lapping pairs;
- a connector securing said elongate members of each of at least some of said lapping pairs to one another; and
- a plurality of supports each secured to one of said plurality of elongate frame members in spaced relation to others of said plurality of supports; and
- an elongate supported item engaged with, and supported by, each of said plurality of supports such that said elongate supported item extends between adjacent ones of said plurality of supports in a direction along said elongate supported item.
28. **(Original)** A system according to claim 27, at least some of said plurality of supports extend in a direction away from said plane of said frame.
29. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer, comprising:
- at least a first lead; and
- a lead support system, comprising:
- at least one elongate frame member having a longitudinal axis; and
- at least one lead support supporting said at least one lead and movably secured to said at least one elongate frame member so as to be repositionable along said longitudinal axis.
30. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 29, wherein said at least one frame member includes a plurality of connection receivers spaced from one another in a direction parallel to said longitudinal axis and said at least one support is secured to said lead support system via at least one of said plurality of connection receivers.
31. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 30, wherein each of said plurality of connection receivers comprises an aperture.

32. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 29, wherein said at least one elongate frame member includes a first rail and a second rail extending in parallel spaced relation to one another.
33. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 32, wherein each of said first and second rails includes a plurality of grooves confronting like grooves in the other of said first and second rails.
34. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 33, wherein each of said first and second rails includes an aperture located at each of said grooves.
35. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 29, wherein said at least one elongate frame member has a tubular cross-sectional shape.
36. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 35, wherein said at least one elongate frame member includes a plurality of longitudinal faces at least some of which having a plurality of apertures disposed therealong.
37. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 29, wherein said at least one elongate frame member comprises at least two elongate interlocking members interlocked with one another along their lengths.
38. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 29, wherein said at least one lead support comprises a strap having receiving portion containing said at least one lead and a pair of legs extending away from said receiving portion.
39. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 38, further comprises at least one spacing member located adjacent said pair of legs.
40. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 39, further comprising a pair of spacing members and wherein said pair or legs is sandwiched between said pair of spacing members.

P277-12/00

Page 7 of 17

Law Offices of
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC
199 Main Street
P.O. Box 190
Burlington, VT 05402-0190
(802) 863-2375

41. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 39, wherein said spacing member is positioned between said pair of legs.
42. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 29, wherein said at least one elongate frame member is made of cellulose pressboard.
43. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 29, further comprising a plurality of elongate frame members connected to one another to form a frame, each of said plurality of elongate frame members having a length and a plurality of connection receivers spaced from one another along said length, said plurality of elongate frame members secured to one another via corresponding ones of said plurality of connection receivers.
44. **(Withdrawn)** A transformer according to claim 29, where each of said connection receivers comprises at least one aperture.
45. **(Withdrawn)** A system, comprising:
a frame member comprising a first rail and a second rail in spaced parallel relation to one another; and
a connector having a first channel and a second channel spaced from one another, each of said channels engaging a corresponding one of said first and second rails, thereby maintaining said first and second rails in spaced relation with one another at the location of said connector on said frame member.
46. **(Withdrawn)** A system according to claim 45, further comprising an elongate connection member, wherein said connector further includes an aperture, for receiving said elongate connection member, located between said first and second channels.
47. **(Withdrawn)** A system according to claim 46, wherein said elongate connection member comprises a rod.

48. **(Withdrawn)** A system according to claim 47, wherein said rod includes first threads and said aperture includes second threads threadedly receiving said first threads of said rod.
49. **(Withdrawn)** A system according to claim 45, wherein said first rail includes a first plurality of grooves and said second rail includes a second plurality of grooves confronting said first plurality of grooves.
50. **(Withdrawn)** A system according to claim 45, wherein said connector snugly engages one of said first plurality of grooves and a corresponding one of said second plurality of grooves.
51. **(Original)** A method of supporting an supported item, comprising the steps of:
selecting a plurality of elongate frame members each having a length and a plurality of connection receivers spaced from one another along said length;
forming said plurality of elongate frame members into a grid shape by forming lapped regions of said plurality of elongate frame members;
connecting together said elongate frame members at at least some of said lapped regions by engaging a plurality of first connection member with ones of said plurality of connection receivers corresponding to said lapped regions;
selecting a connection receiver for receiving a second connection member for securing an supported item support to the corresponding one of said plurality of elongate frame members; and
engaging said second connection member with said connection receiver, thereby securing said supported item support to the corresponding one of said plurality of elongate frame members.
52. **(Withdrawn)** A method of supporting a transformer lead, comprising the steps of:
providing a frame member having a length and a plurality of connection receivers spaced from one another along said length;

selecting one of said plurality of connection receivers for receiving a connection member for securing a lead support to said frame member;
engaging said connection member with said selected one of said plurality of connection receivers; and
securing said lead support to said frame member.

53. **(Currently amended)** A support system for supporting at least one elongate supported item, comprising:

a plurality of standardized, ~~like~~ members each having a length and connected to one another so as to form a frame generally defining a plane, each of said plurality of standardized members being the same as all others of said plurality of standardized members, except only that said length of each of said plurality of standardized members need not be the same as said length of each other of said plurality of standardized members;

a plurality of first means for securing corresponding ones of said plurality of standardized, ~~like~~ members to one another to form said frame, each of said plurality of first means being repositionable along the length of each corresponding ones of said plurality of standardized, ~~like~~ members;

at least two second means for supporting the at least one elongate supported item in spaced relation to said plane of said frame such that a portion of said at least one elongate member extends between said at least two second means; and

at least one third means for securing said at least one second means to one of said plurality of standardized, ~~like~~ members along said length thereof, said at least one third means and being repositionable along that said length.